

The Normal Canine – Thoracic Exam (Exam 2)

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Videos in The Normal Canine series are available at: <http://doi.org/10.7294/W4M61HDZ>

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Transcript

Okay, so now we're gonna move on to the exam of the thorax. And so to start here, we wanna start with the feeling for our prescapular lymph nodes, which as the name suggests, are right here in front of the scapula. And his feel normal because he's a good healthy dog.

So at this point, we're just gonna go ahead and quickly run our hands down his legs and over the rest of his chest here. We're feeling for anything asymmetrical, lumps or bumps or anything that you're finding that might feel abnormal which we wanna look at. So at this point, we're gonna go ahead and move on to auscultation of the chest.

And so first we want to feel for our point of maximum intensity of our heart beat. And here on our left side, which is where we're going to start. And once we feel that, we can go ahead and get out our stethoscope. Once we have our stethoscope out, we can go ahead and we can place it on point of maximum intensity, start there.

We're gonna move around in a triangular motion, starting on the pulmonic area, heading up to our aortic valve and then over to our mitral valve. And making sure that we're gonna take couple of heartbeats on each of those to listen. Once we've looked at all of those three valves, we're gonna move to the other side, And we're gonna listen for our tricuspid valve.

Once we've had a good listen to all four valves, we're gonna go ahead and listen to our lung fields, starting from our caudal-dorsal And heading cranial-ventral. At each point we're stopping to listen to a couple of breaths, just listening for anything abnormal such as crackles or wheezes. So while we're listening to our lung field, this is also a time where we can be counting his breaths, and we're gonna count them over 15 seconds and multiply that by four to get the breaths per minute.

And we'll go ahead and repeat for the other side. And all of his lung sounds, sound normal. So last but not least, we're gonna go ahead and while listening to our heartbeat, come here and feel our femoral pulse. And make sure the two are synchronous. Once we've done that, that ends the thoracic exam.

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